

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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Control 5505

Rec'd October 17, 1947
7:26 p.m.

FROM: Rome
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 3285, October 17, 6 p.m.

US URGENT

In course of commercial treaty negotiations, Italian delegation October 10 inquired whether US Government intends to include the consular convention (signed May 8, 1878) between our two countries among the agreements which, within six months under terms of peace treaty, we shall declare still effective. Embassy replied that entire matter still under study in Department, which would presumably communicate decision in near future, and that we felt exchange of notes on consular rights would certainly be retained in absence of any more up-to-date substitute agreement. (EMDES 1481 August 18). Embassy representatives inquired whether Italians, raising question, idea that provisions on consular rights might be incorporated into commercial treaty. They replied negatively, but Lombardo mentioned that existing consular agreement was doubtless outmoded and might well be modernized at this time. Embassy pointed out that usual Department practice now is not to cover both consular rights and commercial provisions in same treaty, adding however that we felt sure Department would be pleased to undertake negotiations for new consular convention.

Assuming that Italian reference to this matter was inspired by desire to be helpful, in view of Embassy's numerous approaches to Foreign Office and other ministries during recent months in effort to obtain appropriate recognition of diplomatic and consular rights and privileges, Embassy feels that this would

be opportune

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-2- #3285, October 17, 6 p.m., from Rome

be opportune moment to approach Foreign Office formally with suggestion for negotiation new consular agreement.

Embassy's recent efforts to obtain proper treatment re turnover tax (DEPTEL 1809, September 24 and previous) difficulties being encountered because of limitations imposed on diplomatic free entry, and uncertainty as to rights accorded to non-diplomatic personnel are current problems which, in Embassy's opinion, cannot be adequately solved without approach at higher level than heretofore attempted.

Imminent arrival Sommers makes consular convention expert available for negotiations.

Department's instructions appreciated.

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